

Message Text

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LIMDIS-DOD HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. JORDAN AVOIDS TOO CLOSE IDENTIFICATION WITH SYRIA

EMBASSY AMMAN ASSERTS THAT THE JORDANIAN PRESS IS MIS-REPORTING HUSSEIN AND ASAD AS BEING IN COMPLETE AGREEMENT ON THE SIANI ACCORD, THUS PORTRAYING JORDAN'S STANCE AS MORE NEGATIVE THAN IT ACTUALLY IS. PRIME MINISTER RIFAI CONTINUES TO STRESS THAT JORDAN'S AND SYRIA'S "FULL AGREEMENT" EXTENDS ONLY TO THE ACCORD'S GENERAL EFFECT ON ARAB UNITY AND THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION. (CONFIDENTIAL) AMMAN 6541, 9/28.

2. LEBANESE CEASEFIRE HOLDING

EMBASSY BEIRUT REPORTS THAT BEIRUT REMAINED CALM SEPTEMBER 28 FOLLOWING THE QUIETEST NIGHT IN TWO WEEKS. INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES ARE REPLACING PRIVATE MILITIAMEN AT THE
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BARRICADES, AND AIRPORT OPERATIONS ARE NEAR NORMAL.

THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE POLITICAL ACTIVITY PENDING MONDAY'S
SECOND SESSION OF THE NATIONAL DIALOGUE COMMITTEE.
(CONFIDENTIAL) BEIRUT 12043, 9/28.

3. AZORES' POPULAR POLITICS WEAKENS INDEPENDENCE
MOVEMENT

CONSULATE PONTA DELGADA COMMENTS THAT THE DIMINISHING
THREAT OF COMMUNISM AND THE INCREASING LIKELIHOOD OF
POPULAR GOVERNMENT IN PORTUGAL HAVE DISSOLVED THE PRE-
VIOUS UNITY BETWEEN PEOPLE, POLITICANS AND AUTHORITIES.

--GOVERNOR MAGALHAES' STRONG OPPOSITION TO AZORES
INDEPENDENCE AND CONCERN FOR PUBLIC ORDER MARK HIM
AS ANTI-AZOREAN.

--THE REGIONAL JUNTA IS GROWING INTO A REAL GOVERN-
MENT AND BEARS THE UNPOPULARITY THAT ACCOMPANIES
DECISIONMAKING.

--WHILE IT IS BEING WEAKENED BY THE GROWTH OF
POPULAR POLITICS, THE AZOREAN LIBERATION FRONT IS
TOO USEFUL TO FADE AWAY. MOST AZOREANS RECOGNIZE
THAT ONLY THE THREAT OF INDEPENDENCE PUSHED THE GOP
TO MAKE CONCESSIONS. (CONFIDENTIAL) PONTA DELGADA
368, 9/28.

4 ITALY: CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS MOVE TO COUNTER COMMUNIST
GROWTH

IN A CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR VOLPE, CHRISTIAN
DEMOCRATIC (DC) SECRETARY ZACCAGNINI STATED THAT HIS
PARTY OPPOSED COMMUNIST (PCI) PARTICIPATION IN THE
GOVERNMENT. HE BELIEVES THE DC MUST RESPOND TO GROWING
PCI STRENGTH BY:

--CONFRONTING THE PUBLIC WITH THE CHOICE OF "DEMOC-
RACY AND LIBERTY" VERSUS "COMMUNIST REGIMENTATION;

--AVOIDING A HEAD ON CLASH WHICH WOULD STIMULATE
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INCREASED PCI OPPOSITION TO THE GOVERNMENT'S
EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMY PROGRAMS;

--WINNING BACK THE SUPPORT OF THE MIDDLE CLASS, THE
PARTY'S "NATURAL ELECTORATE," WHERE THE PCI HAS
RECENTLY MADE MAJOR INROADS;

--SUPPORTING A UNIFIED, NON-COMMUNIST SOCIALIST

PARTY, CAPABLE OF FORMULATING ITS OWN POLICY;

--DISCOURAGING THE FLIGHT OF US COMPANIES AND
ENCOURAGING NEW US INVESTMENT. (CONFIDENTIAL) ROME
13863, 9/26.

5. ROMANIAN HERESY DELAYS EUROPEAN COMMUNIST CONCLAVE

A ROMANIAN DIPLOMAT TOLD EMBASSY WARSAW THAT PLANNING
FOR A EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTY CONFERENCE IS STALLED.
DEBATE ON THE CHINA QUESTION HAS BEEN SUPERCEDED BY
WORKING LEVEL DISAGREEMENT OVER A ROMANIAN PROPOSAL
URGING CLOSER COOPERATION WITH EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS IN
SUPPORT OF CSCE IMPLEMENTATION. THE SOVIETS OPPOSE THE
PROPOSAL. POINTING TO PORTUGAL AS AN EXAMPLE, THE
ROMANIAN SAID RULING COMMUNIST PARTIES CAN IN CERTAIN
INSTANCES SUPPORT LOCAL SOCIALIST PARTIES, EVEN OVER THE
LOCAL COMMUNISTS. (CONFIDENTIAL) WARSAE 6354, 9/27.

6. KHMER REFUGEES HOPEFUL OF PERMISSION TO RETURN TO
CAMBODIA

TASK FORCE REPRESENTATIVES AT CAMP PENDLETON REPORT THAT
KHMER REFUGEES ANXIOUS TO RETURN TO CAMBODIA REMAIN
CONFIDENT THAT THE PHNOM PENH REGIME WILL WELCOME THEM
BACK. THEIR OPTIMISM IS BASED ON:

--CONTINUED CONTACTS BETWEEN THE REFUGEES AND THE
KHMER DELEGATION IN NEW YORK, WHICH HAS ASSURED
THEM THAT PHNOM PENH HAS ALREADY FORMALLY APPROVED
THEIR RETURN;

--HOPES THAT PRINCE SIHANOUK WILL MAKE A PUBLIC
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ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE SUBJECT DURING HIS VISIT TO THE
UN IN EARLY OCTOBER. (UNCLASSIFIED) IATF CAMP
PENDLETON MSG 1161, DTG 280108 9/75.

7. ECUADOR: RODRIGUEZ LARA REGIME STILL SHAKY

ONE MONTH AFTER THE ABORTIVE SEPTEMBER 1 COUP ATTEMPT,
THE STABILITY AND DURABILITY OF THE RODRIGUEZ LARA
GOVERNMENT IS STILL IN QUESTION. EMBASSY QUITO REPORTS
THAT:

--DISCONTENT WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES IS WIDESPREAD.

--A CONCERTED EFFORT IS BEING MADE BY CIVILIAN
LEADERS TO BRING DOWN THE GOVERNMENT, WHICH THEY

PERCEIVE AS BEING ON ITS KNEES.

RODRIGUEZ' MAIN PROBLEM IS ASSURING THE SUPPORT OF THE
ECUADOREAN MILITARY, MANY OF WHOM KNEW OF THE COUP
PLOTING BUT WERE NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED. THE EMBASSY IS
STICKING TO ITS EARLIER PREDICTIONS THAT RODRIGUEZ WILL

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SURVIVE, MOSTLY BECAUSE NO CLEAR ALTERNATIVE TO THE
GOVERNMENT IS IN SIGHT. (SECRET) QUITO 7221, 9/27
(LIMDIS). INGERSOLL

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